



K9S FOR WARRIORS

GIVE A NEW LEASH ON LIFE TO RESCUE DOGS AND MILITARY HEROES

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)(3)

Rory Diamond
114 Camp K9 Road
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March 28, 2018

The Honorable Richard Burr
Russell Senate Office Building
217 Constitution Ave NE,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

Please take this as a letter of support from K9s For Warriors for your proposed legislation for the 2018 Federal Aviation Authority (“FAA”) reauthorization. As you may know, K9s For Warriors is the nation’s largest provider of service dogs to disabled American veterans. As our nation’s stores, restaurants, airlines and hotels are being inundated with fake and/or poorly trained service dogs, we support any effort to dissuade individuals from falsely claiming that they have a disability that requires the use of a service dog and/or attempting to gain public access with an improperly trained service dog. The direct result of these “fake service dogs” is that the graduates of our program, returning heroes suffering from invisible wounds of war, are being harassed at various points of access because their disabilities are not facially apparent.

Specifically, we are told that your proposed legislation would make the following changes:

1. Amend the definition of a “service animal” under the Air Carriers Accessibility Act (“ACAA”)¹ to align with the corresponding definition in the Americans With Disabilities Act² and associated regulations;
2. Make it illegal under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 for an individual to knowingly and willfully make a false statement for the purpose of seeking accommodation involving an animal from a commercial air carrier; and
3. Require the Secretary of Transportation - in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, commercial air

¹ 49 U.S.C § 41705.

² Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C §§ 12101-12213 (2009) (amended 2008).



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carriers, and private industry - to establish a standard of service animal behavior training for individuals seeking accommodation under the ACAA.

We offer our unqualified support for the first two proposed changes. We believe both proposed changes would limit the number of fake and/or poorly trained service dogs and correspondingly increase the quality and ease of public access to airlines for our graduates. With regard to the third proposed change, we offer our qualified endorsement. While we support the establishment of a national standard for service dog behavior such as the “National Standard” established by the National Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans, the nation’s only such organization, we would not support the adoption of a standard derived from any entity or process to which we would have no input.

We thank you for taking the initiative on this important issue and look forward to working together on behalf of our disabled veterans.

Regards,

Rory Diamond
CEO K9s For Warriors